



## **EASLEY'S PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR SENIORS**

**The Prescription Drug Assistance Plan will help up to 100,000 seniors struggling to pay for their medication. According to a recent federal report, prescription drugs now account for about one-sixth of all out-of-pocket health spending for the elderly.**

### **PLAN DETAILS**

**Covers all seniors (65 and over) who:**

- Have an income of up to 200% Federal Poverty Level (\$17,180 for individual or \$23,220 per couple)

**Cost sharing of 60/40, with the state paying 60 percent of the prescription drug cost up to a maximum of \$1,000 in drugs each year.**

**Covers medication used to treat cardiovascular disease (CVD), diabetes mellitus and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).**

- It is estimated that 71% of seniors have one of these diseases. (CVD 60%, COPD 14%, Diabetes 13%)

**The Health and Wellness Trust Fund approved \$35 million for the first year of the program.**

- \$32 million to provide the prescription drugs
- \$3 million for education and counseling for seniors

**The Department of Health and Human Services will administer the program.** Enrollment is expected to begin in the spring of 2002. For more information about the program to or request an application call 1-800-662-7030 or log onto <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us>.